



June in Louisiana also means the start of hurricane season. "For the 2022 hurricane season, NOAA is forecasting a likely range of 14 to 21 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 6 to 10 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 3 to 6 major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5; with winds of 111 mph or higher). <http://www.noaa.gov>. Some considerations from [Autism Speaks](#) for evacuation planning for persons with autism:

Call the Red Cross prior to evacuating to ask which shelters accommodate people with special needs, let them know your child has autism and fully explain all of your child's specific needs. Ask if there is a secure room or office where your family could stay if your child wanders.

- Remember to bring familiar items that will help your child adjust to their new surroundings and ease the stress of the transition with some of their comforts from home – favorite toys, DVDs and computer games.
- Make an emergency contact list - even if you have them in your phone, also write them down! Include names and numbers of everyone in your personal autism support network, as well as your medical providers, local law enforcement, emergency responders.
- Grab your IEP and any medical records or evaluations you may have on hand. Your IEP is a federal document and can help you settle your child in an alternate school setting more quickly if you have it on hand.
- Pack any needed Assisted Technology Devices and don't forget the chargers! Just in case record the device name, manufacturer's name & information, model and serial numbers, vendor (Store's/Seller's) name and info, date of purchase and copy of receipt if available, copy of Doctor's or Therapist's prescription if available and contact and funder's (i.e., Medicare, Medicaid, Insurance Co.) name, contact info, & policy numbers.
- iPads (and other medical equipment) that are used by someone with autism to communicate are covered under medical losses/disability equipment. During the intake call with FEMA, you may be asked about medical devices, and whether anyone is dependent on a computer or other equipment.
- Pack enough medicines or special dietary needs for at least three weeks. Shipments of new supplies to impacted areas may be difficult or impossible. Bring copies of prescriptions with you or be sure you have refills scheduled with a national pharmacy that can access them electronically.
- If you regularly visit doctors or specialist for treatments or interventions or if you receive regular services such as home health care, treatment or transportation, talk to your service provider about their emergency plans. Identify back-up service providers in the areas you might evacuate to. If you use medical equipment in your home that requires electricity to operate, talk to your health care provider about what you can do to prepare for its use during a power outage.
- If you have a service animal, be sure to include food, water, and collar with ID tag, medical records and other emergency pet supplies.
- During an emergency quick and unanticipated changes in routine and environment can cause increased anxiety and stress for people with autism. If staying in a shelter bring headphones or earplugs to help with noise.

Autism Speaks also has a [Disaster Preparedness Guidebook](#), which includes a section on evacuation planning.

UPCOMING FAMILY GROUP MEETINGS- Join us in person!



- **Lafayette-** Monday, June 13, 9:00am- in person and online, PLEASE RSVP to Angie
- **New Orleans SMSS-** Friday, June 17 at 2:00pm – in person
- **Houma/Thib/NO-** Thursday, June 23, at 9:30am and 12noon - online
- **Thibodaux –** Tuesday, June 21, at 8:45am - in person
- **Houma –** Wednesday, June 22 at 8:45am – in person
- **Hammond –**Monday, June 13th at 8:30am - in person. Spanish translation available
- **Baton Rouge Pre-K-** Wednesday, June 8, at 1:30pm – in person and online
- **Baton Rouge School-aged-** Wednesday, June 8, at 8:30am -in person and online

In -person meetings: please wear a mask and practice social distancing, please refrain from attending if you have any symptoms of illness

Online: Angie Lanoux will send a ZOOM link prior to the meeting
We look forward to seeing you!



Have a question about Touchstone services or ABA? Send us your questions and we'll do our best to answer them in our next parent/caregiver newsletter.

Email to Janice at jhuber@tc-aba.com